operation, reducing the administrative expenses and by better utilisation of men and machinery and introduction of better management practices and technology.

Contract for Kawas power project

*80. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRI A. G. KULKARNI:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided not to award the turn-key contract for the Rs. 340 crores gas-based power project at Kawas (Gujarat) to M|s. Alsthom of France; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therenegotiate the award of the contract to an negotiate the award of the conract to an alternative collaborator indicating the details of the possible alternatives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) and (b) M|s. Alsthom of France have not extended the period of validity of their offer for turnkey execution of the Kawas gas-based combined cycle power project of the National Thermal Power Corporation. Earlier, despite protracted discussion, agreement could not be reached with them on various terms and conditions of the contract. It is proposed by NTPC in consultation with the World Bank, to invite fresh bids from the parties who had originally submitted offers for turn-key execution of the project

Petrochemical complex at Visakhapatnam

487. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mitsui of Japan has offered to set up a Petrochemicals Complex at Visakhapatnam;

(b) if so, whether Government have made any selection of the Indian Partner in such a venture; and

(c) what is the financial outlay proposed and when the unit is likely to go on stream?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) to (c) M|s. Mitsui of Japan has offered to assist M|s. Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Ltd. in the setting up of a petrochemical complex at Visakhapatnam. The Corportion have been asked to undertake preliminary negotiations with M|s. Mitsui.

It is too early to indicate the financial outlay for such a complex and the time frame by which this complex will go on steam.

Joint sector company for the manufacture of telephone instruments.

488. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a joint sector company has been formed for the manufacture of telephone instruments, to be set up in Assam; and

(b) if so, what are the details regarding the production capacity envisaged, capital involved and the time of completion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It has been decided to set up a joint venture company between Indian Telephone Industries Limited, Bangalore and AMTRON, Assam. The capital cost and time of completion of the project are in the process of finalisation. The rated production capacity of the company is 1 lakh telephone instruments per annum.

Crude Oil production

489. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is slipping on the oil front with domestic crude production stagnant at about 30 million tonnes annually and dependent on

imports of crude oil as reported in the 'Times of India' dated 27th June, 1988;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what are the reasons for the stagnation; and

(d) what steps are to be taken or proposed to be taken by Government to improve the oil production in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT): (a) to (d) Production of crude oil has not beeen stagnant. Domestic crude production during the 7th Plan period will be considerably higher than during the 6th plan period. However, the degree of dependence on imported crude oil is increasing as the consumption of petroleum products is growing at a rate faster than the rate if increase in domestic production.

The following steps have been taken to increase crude production:—

(i) Intensification of exploration.

(ii) Intensification of work-over operations.

(iii) Use of enhanced oil recovery techniques.

(iv) Induction of advanced technology.

Relief for glass industry

490. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is under Government's consideration for single window redressal of problems and clearances for the glass industry; and

(b) whether any releief is being contemplated for the glass industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Government has already introduced system of single window clearance in the Secretariat for Industrial Approvals by setting up Project Approval Board for clearing composite cases of letters of intent, capital goods and foreign collaboration. Special Approval Committee (NRI) provides single window clearance in respect of NRI cases

Similarly, there is single window clearance in respect of DGTD registrations for glass items which have been de-licenced under the Industrial Policy.

District Industries Centres which have been set up in 442 districts of the country aim at providing all the services and facilities to the entrepreneurs at one place for setting up small and village industries including glass industry.

(b) As a part of the Union budget 1988, the basic Central Excise duty on Glassware manufactured by semi-automati process was reduced from 40 per cent to 30 per cent *ad valorem* by notification 67/88-CE dated 1-3-1988. The excise duty on glass tableware used by the common man, namely, jugs, cups, plates; drinking glasses and bowls was also reduced to 20 per cent or 25 per cent *adv.*, depending on the process of manufacture, by the same notification.

Public sector units in Tripura

491. SHRI NARAYAN KAR: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there negligible growth of industry in North Eastern region, particularly in Tripura and

(b) what are the details of industries set up in the State so far, licence in respect of which have been issued by the Central Government?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) No, Sir. The total investmenet in terms of Gross